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# City of Sammamish Police Department

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## Service Efforts and Accomplishments: 2002 Third Annual Report on Police Performance



**Created for the City of Sammamish by:**

The King County Sheriff's Office  
Research, Planning & Information Services Unit  
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**Accessible formats are available upon request.**

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## Letter from Chief Dick Baranzini



June, 2003

Dear Citizens of Sammamish:

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you throughout 2002. Your police department is dedicated to serving you in a spirit of customer service and problem solving, addressing those issues of crime and quality-of-life that are of concern to all of you.

### Personnel

Profiting from the benefits of law enforcement services contracting, your Sammamish Police Department has maintained a strength of 21 on-site personnel. Some of our original officers moved on, while others joined us. (Some of the new officers had actually served in Sammamish previously during their field training program.) Among the personnel changes, we said goodbye to our first motorcycle officer, **Timothy McClung**, who returned to duties with the Sheriff's Office; he was replaced by **Kelley Kinser**, who joined us from the City of Shoreline. **Jason Houck** joined us in April and soon became one of our leading DUI enforcers. **Master Police Officer Jessica Belter** transferred to the County's Background Investigation Unit; she was replaced by **Master Police Officer (MPO) Nick Minzghor**, an expert in tactics and weapons training. With the arrival of **MPO Mark Konoske**, we added depth to our training capacity, giving us one Master Police Officer per shift. **Paula Bates** and **Alana Hall** joined us and assumed much of the Community Crime Prevention and False Alarm Reduction Program duties in the City. **Bill Albright** left patrol to become our Burglary-Larceny Detective, replacing **Toney Peters**, who returned to patrol duties with the Sheriff's Office. We welcomed **Whitney Richtmyer** as our Proactive Detective, replacing **Jose Marengo**, who joined the Sheriff's North Precinct Neighborhood Drug Enforcement Team. **Sue Sherwood**, an experienced community police station veteran, joined our ranks and soon, with **Joe Merclich**, started our Sammamish Police Explorer Post. During the course of the year, we continued our practice of hosting several Sheriff's Office trainees, whom we hope to attract as permanent members of the Sammamish Police Department. We also welcomed a local pastor, **Rev. Steve Armendariz**, as our designated Sammamish Police Department Chaplain. **Detective Bill Albright** was selected as Officer-of-the-Year for the department for 2002. And, looking forward to our future recruitment needs, we welcomed the birth of two babies born to members of the police department.

### Youth Programs and Police Explorer Post

2002 saw the publication of the second edition of my "labor of love," our popular Sammamish Police Trading Card Program. Actually, the edition was more of a **CITY** trading card program, with specific trading cards for many city agencies in addition to the police. (I especially like the trading card for the Sammamish Youth Board!) 2002 also saw the formation of our very own **Sammamish Police Department Law Enforcement Explorer Post**. Officers **Sue Sherwood** and **Joe Merclich** did an outstanding job of working through the post recognition process and recruiting two outstanding Sammamish high school students, **Trent Dow** (an Eagle Scout and athlete from Eastlake High) and **Corina Felt** (an athlete and Issaquah Youth Board member from Skyline High School), as our first two explorers. **Stan Chapin** and **Ken Williams** continue to serve as our School Resource Officers (at Eastlake and Skyline High Schools, respectively). 2002 also saw Sammamish's first official participation in fundraising for the **Washington State**

**Special Olympics.** **Officer Tony Garza** did a wonderful job organizing the t-shirt sales, torch run, and "tip-a-cop" activities. (Several of us now know why we didn't choose the restaurant industry as a profession!) Unfortunately, we did not collect the \$10,000 in donations that would have resulted in my publicly having my hair cut off. Maybe next year! All of these programs reflect our attention to the large youth population with which Sammamish is blessed. **Sue Sherwood** was also an innovator in implementing the new **Police Partners** pilot program in the Lake Washington School District elementary schools within the city. Deputy Sherwood's program began with **Samantha Smith Elementary School** and is spreading to the other three elementary schools in the district. This program addresses making positive choices and avoiding alcohol, drugs, gangs, and violence, while providing a flexible, yet effective, alternative to the traditional DARE programs of old.

### **Traffic Safety**

Traffic safety continues to be one of the main priorities of our citizens and the police department. We work very closely with the **Sammamish Public Works Department** to assure that our streets are safe for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians alike. From the first days after incorporation, we have viewed the subject of traffic safety as a "Team Effort," with police, public works, and the City Engineer in close collaboration. Public Works maintains, schedules, and moves our fleet of radar reader board trailers. They also help with traffic control and cleanup at major accident scenes, which is an enormous help and lessens the time the roads must be closed. Within the police department, we had **Timothy McClung** (later replaced by **Kelley Kinser**) on motorcycle and **Keith Sekora** working DUI enforcement. **Deputy Sekora's** certification as a **Drug Recognition Expert** has been a real boost to our enforcement efforts against impaired drivers, but all of our officers have demonstrated an uncanny ability to locate and arrest drunk drivers. During 2002, Sammamish officers arrested no less than 99 drivers for Driving Under the Influence! **Deputies McClung, Sekora** and **De Fries** were all award winners at the annual **Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD)** awards banquet, with **Deputy Sekora** winning in multiple award categories. Although slightly reduced in number from 2001, we processed and investigated some 205 formal traffic complaints and 41 abandoned vehicle complaints. And we supported **Sammamish Fire Services/Eastside Fire and Rescue** in their presentations on the dangers of driving while intoxicated at our local high schools.

### **Problem Solving**

This year's report to our stakeholders again focuses on our Problem Solving Projects. I ask you to pay special attention to pages 16-19, where each of the projects is discussed. It is exciting for me to see and report on the amount of thought that our officers have put into working with our citizens to solve problems of crime and improve the quality of life here in Sammamish.

### **Appreciation**

On behalf of all of the members of the Sammamish Police Department, I thank you for your support to our officers during 2002 and for the opportunity to serve the citizens of our beautiful city. We look forward to continuing to work with you during 2003 as we protect and serve what is rightly called, "The Jewel of the East Side."

If you have any questions about this report or the services provided by the Sammamish Police Department, please visit me at City Hall, phone me at (425) 836-5674, or e-mail me at richard.baranzini@metrokc.gov.

Committed to Excellence in Service,

Dick Baranzini  
Chief of Police

# City of Sammamish Police

## *Service Efforts and Accomplishments: 2002*

### Executive Summary

#### Mission

The mission of the Sammamish Police Department is to:

**Provide quality, professional law enforcement services to improve public safety.**

#### Goals & Objectives

In order to realize their mission, the Sammamish Police Department has adopted the following goals and objectives:

Goal: Reduce crime and the fear of crime.

Objective: Use information for crime analysis.

Objective: Apprehend offenders.

Objective: Prevent crime.

Objective: Improve citizens' feeling of security.

Goal: Provide high-quality, cost-effective, and accountable services to the City of Sammamish, WA.

Objective: Provide responsive services to citizens.

Objective: Provide cost-effective services to citizens.

The following report contains information on the service efforts and accomplishments of the Sammamish Police Department to support its Mission, Goals and Objectives.

#### Report Highlights

As stated in Chief Baranzini's letter (pages 2-3), the highlights of the year 2002 were:

- Personnel and Public Relations (page 2)
- Youth Programs and Police Explorers (pages 2 & 21)
- Traffic Safety (pages 11-12)
- Problem Solving (pages 16-19)

## **Goal: Reduce Crime and the Fear of Crime**

The goal to reduce crime and the fear of crime is a standard goal of law enforcement agencies worldwide. Efforts to support this goal vary with variations in laws, limitations and liabilities of law enforcement agencies, community preferences, socio-economic factors and available resources.

The objectives chosen to provide direction for Sammamish's police department in support of this goal are:

- use information for crime analysis,
- apprehend offenders,
- prevent crime, and
- improve citizens' feeling of security.

The measures on the following pages report the efforts and accomplishments of Sammamish's police department as reflected in the amount of crime (crime rates and statistics), crime incident case clearance rates, adult and juvenile arrest and charge statistics, workload of crime prevention efforts and citizen communications activities.

# City of Sammamish Police

## *Service Efforts and Accomplishments: 2002*

### Objective: Use Information for Crime Analysis

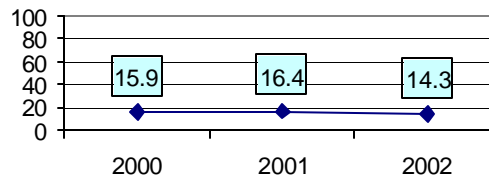
#### The "Crime Rate"

##### Total Part I Crimes

"Part I Crimes" is a category of crimes established by the U. S. Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) that consists of murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft and arson. Part I Crimes compared to the population are known as the "Crime Index" or "Crime Rate." (The Crime Rate is known as the Modified Crime Rate when Arson data is included.)

"Part II Crimes" consist of all other crimes not included in the Part I Crimes category. Part II crimes vary due to differences in local laws.

**Part I Crimes Per 1,000  
Residents**  
Commonly known as the "Crime Rate"



##### National Modified Crime Rate

The FBI calculates and publishes the national crime rate based on the information sent to them by participating agencies. This information is usually released in the fourth quarter of the following year. Therefore, the most recent data available as of this report is the crime rate for 2001 (published in October, 2002).

##### **U. S. National Modified Crime Rate (2001)**

**48.9**

# City of Sammamish Police

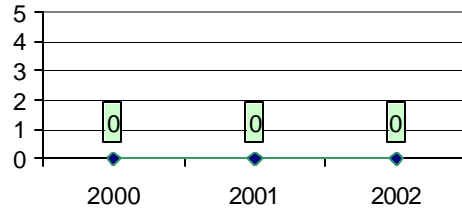
## *Service Efforts and Accomplishments: 2002*

### Crimes Against Persons

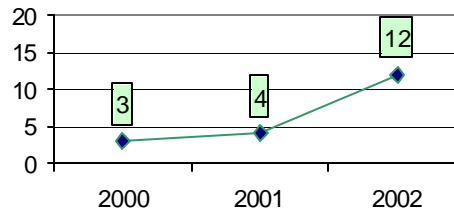
#### Part I Crimes Against Persons

Part I Crimes include crimes categorized as “violent crimes” or “crimes against persons.” The following are City of Sammamish’s Part I Crimes Against Persons for the past three years.

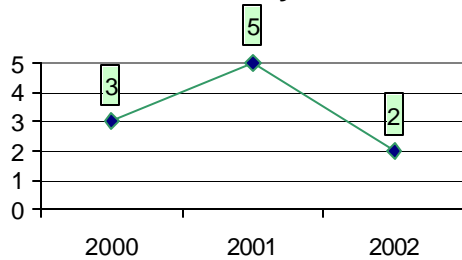
##### **Murder**



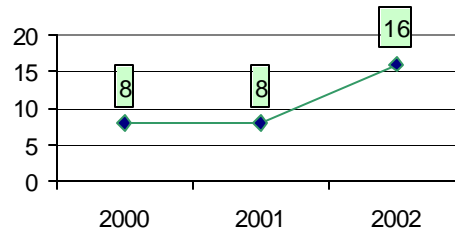
##### **Rape**



##### **Robbery**



##### **Aggravated Assault**





# City of Sammamish Police

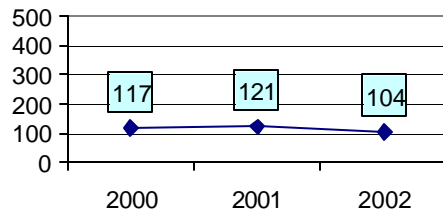
## *Service Efforts and Accomplishments: 2002*

### Crimes Against Property

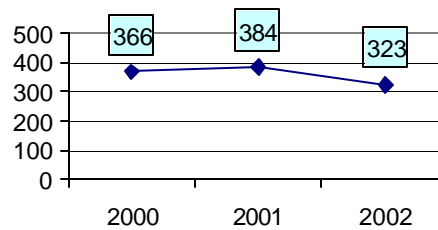
#### Part I Crimes Against Property

The second group of crimes that make up the Part I Crimes are known as “non-violent crimes” or “crimes against property” or “property crimes.” The following are the City of Sammamish’s Part I Crimes Against Property for the past three years.

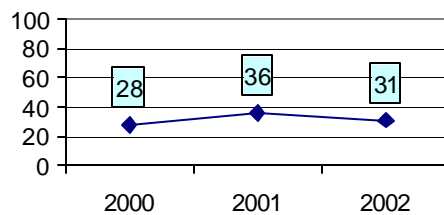
#### **Burglary**



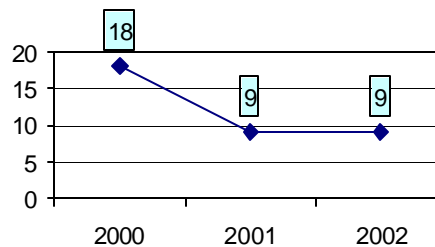
#### **Larceny**



#### **Vehicle Theft**



#### **Arson**



# City of Sammamish Police

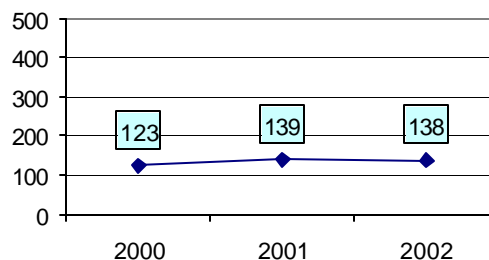
## *Service Efforts and Accomplishments: 2002*

### Domestic Violence Crimes

In Washington State "Domestic Violence Crime" refers to any crime which is committed by a spouse, former spouse, person related by blood or marriage, persons who have a child in common, former/current roommates, persons who have or had a dating relationship, and/or persons related to the suspect by the parent-child (biological or legal) relationship. In some cases, the age of the victim or suspect may determine whether or not the legal definition above is met.

"Domestic Violence Incidents" includes all documented police activity related to domestic violence incidents which includes all case reports and citations as well as possibly containing other related activity such as Field Interview Reports (FIR) and assistance to other agencies.

**Total Domestic Violence Incidents**



The most frequently occurring types of domestic violence crimes in Sammamish in 2002 were:

<u>Crime</u>	<u>Reported Incidents</u>
Assault Fourth Degree	52
Violation of Court Orders, Misdemeanor	13
Total Family/Juvenile Disturbances	10
Vandalism	5
Residential Burglary, Non-Forced	3
Assault, Hands	3
Assault, Knife	2
Assault, Other Deadly Weapon	2
Violation of Court Orders, Felony	2
Other/Miscellaneous	8

NOTE: There were no domestic violence related homicides in Sammamish in 2002.

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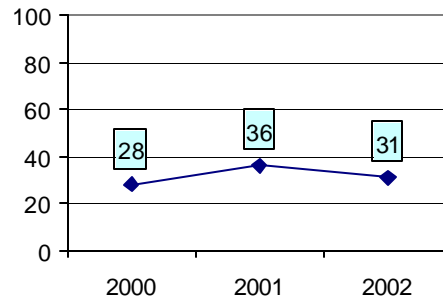
## *Service Efforts and Accomplishments: 2002*

### Automobile/Vehicle Related Crimes

#### Vehicle Thefts

Vehicle Thefts includes thefts of all vehicles including trucks, buses, boats, recreational vehicles and other non-licensed off-road vehicles.

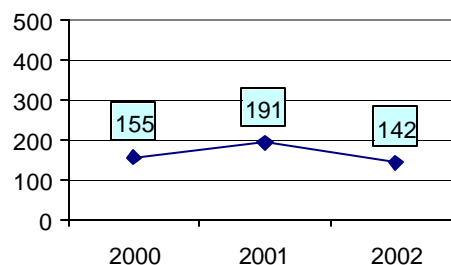
#### Vehicle Theft



#### Thefts from Vehicles and Attempted Thefts

Thefts From Vehicles and Attempted Thefts include thefts of property **from** a vehicle including: any part or accessory item attached to the vehicle (gasoline, tires, tape decks, antennas, etc.), and personal property left in a vehicle (purses, gifts, tools), as well as vehicle prowls (no property successfully taken).

#### Thefts from Vehicles and Attempted Thefts ("Prowls")



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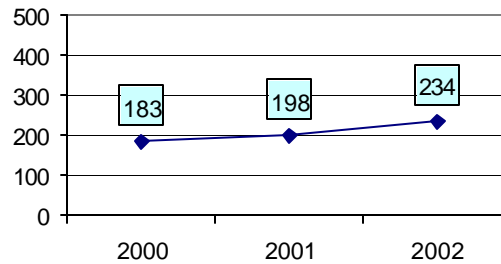
## *Service Efforts and Accomplishments: 2002*

### Traffic Incident Information

#### Traffic Report Data

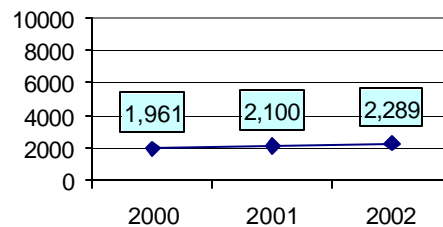
Collision information includes reports for all injury, non-injury and fatality vehicle collisions (including hit and run incidents) taken by the Sammamish Police Department.

#### **Collisions**



Citation and Notice of Infraction information includes reports of Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) violations, Moving/Hazardous violations (such as all accidents, speeding and reckless driving), and Non-moving Compliance violations (such as defective equipment and parking violations).

#### **Traffic Citations and Notices of Infraction(s)**



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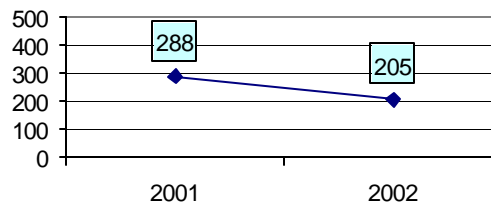
## *Service Efforts and Accomplishments: 2002*

### Traffic Report Data, continued

Citizen Traffic Complaints includes all reports citizens make regarding chronic traffic violations and requests for traffic enforcement. These complaints are then distributed to Sammamish's police officers to provide follow-up enforcement and/or a problem solving response (see Problem Solving Projects on pages 16-19).

#### **Citizen Traffic Complaints**

Comparable data unavailable prior to  
2001



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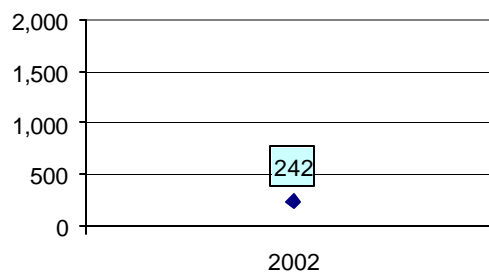
### Objective: Apprehend Offenders

#### Cases Closed "Cleared by Arrest"

The closed cases below are cases known as "cleared by arrest." Although not every case suspect is "arrested," each suspect in these cases has been recommended for criminal charges that may eventually result in an arrest or another form of punitive action (such as a citation). Cases "cleared by arrest" are sent to the King County Prosecutor's office - with the officer or detective's recommendation to file criminal charges. A prosecuting attorney is solely responsible for the decision to formally file charges and prosecute defendants.

#### Part I & II Cases Closed 'Cleared By Arrest'

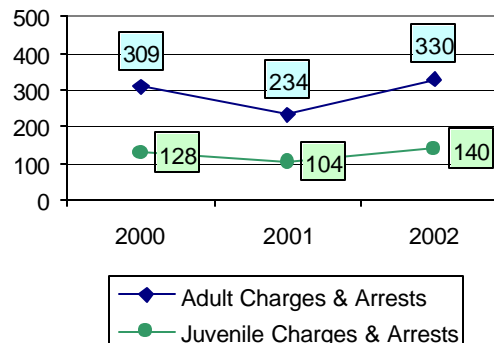
Comparable data unavailable prior to  
2002



#### Charges and Arrests

Of all the cases "cleared by arrest" (see above), the following are the charges & arrests by adult/juvenile status. (Note: Numbers will differ from the number of cases "cleared by arrest" due to differences in reporting standards.)

#### Adult & Juvenile Charges & Arrests



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### Objective: Prevent Crime

#### Crime Prevention Efforts

##### Crime Prevention Staffing

Although the city does not have a dedicated Community Crime Prevention Officer, we are dedicated to providing the training and services found in any traditional crime prevention unit. Many of our officers performed crime prevention duties during the year. **Sgt. D. Pingrey** coordinated the assignment of officers to make presentation during day and afternoon shifts, while **Sgt. B. Soule** coordinated the assignment of Block Watch and other presentations by the officers who work evenings. We are proud to continue to provide **vacation house checks** for our citizens, performed by the officers who work daytime shifts. During 2002, we took no less than **93** separate requests for vacation house checks from our residents.

**Chief Baranzini** was also involved, even on a national scale. The International City/County Management Association published a monograph by the Chief, entitled "Reducing False Alarms: A Systemic Approach." The Chief was also appointed to the Executive Advisory Committee of the **Law Enforcement and Security Alliance**, a partnership of law enforcement, the fire service, and the alarm industry, working together to reduce the incidence of false alarm activations. Other members of the department also made presentations on crime prevention topics in a variety of venues. Special mention must be made of the outstanding support we receive from the **City of Sammamish Public Works Department** personnel in posting the Block Watch signs and, when necessary, repairing or replacing them.

##### Crime Prevention Groups

Eleven (11) full Neighborhood Block Watch presentations were given to neighborhood groups within the City during 2002. As a result of those presentations, there are now ten (10) formal ("certified") Neighborhood Block Watch groups within the City. These groups completed all certification requirements for being recognized as a Block Watch, including posting Block Watch signage at entrances to their neighborhoods. The other neighborhood groups who received the training are still in the process of completing their certification requirements.

##### Community Training

##### Residential and Commercial Security Surveys

Although no residential or commercial security surveys were conducted in 2002, we have trained personnel available to respond to requests for these valuable documents. Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) concepts are incorporated into the surveys. We are also requested to conduct miscellaneous site surveys for permit approvals.

##### False Alarm Reduction

As stated above, **Chief Baranzini** is involved in false alarm reduction efforts at both the local and the national level, including writing on the subject and being involved with national law enforcement-industry groups who work to reduce the incidence of false alarms. Our department policy is to work closely with home- and business-owners to solve false alarm problems, avoiding fines and no-response status to the greatest extent possible. During 2002, the City Council approved an amendment to the City's False Alarm Ordinance, increasing the fines for false robbery, burglary, and panic alarms and adding a fee schedule for false fire alarms. Sammamish is known for its customer-

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service approach to false alarm reduction, which has proven very effective in reducing the incidence of false alarms. Although the number of new residences in Sammamish continues to grow, most up-scale with alarm systems installed, the City actually saw a reduction in the number of false alarm calls from 2001 to 2002, both in terms of raw numbers and in terms of percentage of Dispatched Calls for Service (DCFS). The number of false alarm calls directly impacts the cost of law enforcement services, so we are excited about experiencing a downturn in the incidence of false alarms.

### For More Information

For more information, or to request a crime prevention or Block Watch presentation or receive a residential or commercial security survey, please contact the **Sammamish Police Department at (425) 836-5674**.



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## *Service Efforts and Accomplishments: 2002*

### Problem Solving Projects/Programs

#### Juvenile Trespass Problem

A large water tower location of the Sammamish Plateau Water and Sewer District became the site of illegal and disruptive juvenile gatherings. Alcohol and drug use was reported by residents surrounding the property, who repeatedly had to clean up debris left behind by the trespassers. The issue was brought up at a Block Watch meeting conducted by **Sgt. B. Soule**. She assigned the project to **Officer T. De Fries**. Travis set as his goals (1) to make the area less desirable for juveniles to meet and hang out, (2) to enhance enforcement actions for the Sammamish Police, and (3) to create better communication between citizens in the area and the Sammamish Police Department. Travis met with neighbors and representatives of the District. A plan was formulated in which the District would extend the fencing surrounding the property, post No-Trespassing signage, and file a **Criminal Trespass Enforcement Request and Authorization Letter** with the police, while the residents surrounding the property would call the Sheriff's Communications Center whenever they observed illegal activity and complete a **Water Tower Activity Report**, to capture information on dates, times, vehicle license plates, and other identifying information that would assist the police in filing criminal charges and in determining the most common dates/times of criminal activity.

Results: As a result of this problem-solving project, illegal and disruptive behavior has been significantly reduced, improving the quality of life for the residents of the neighborhood. Police are now empowered to enter and make arrests on the property without having to be called by a representative of the District.

#### Abandoned and Junk Vehicles; Building and Other Code Violations

There were several abandoned and junk vehicles parked for long periods of time on the public roadway or right-of-way adjacent to property owned by a Sammamish resident. In the process of addressing the abandoned vehicle problem, serious code violations were noted at buildings on the property. **Code Enforcement Officer Ronda Litzau**, accompanied by **Officer Sue Sherwood** and other Sammamish police officers, visited the site and posted the observed violations. During the course of the visit, unrelated problems and illegal activity were also uncovered, such as the recovery of a reported stolen vehicle and arrest of an individual on an outstanding warrant.

Results: Primary responsibility for enforcement and follow up has been assumed by City Code Enforcement, utilizing civil processes and the court system. Although some agreements have been reached with the property owners, there are other outstanding issues still being worked.

#### Door-to-Door Sales People and Solicitors in Sammamish

The actions of door-to-door sales people or solicitors for allegedly non-profit organizations has often caused concern to many residents of the city. In some cases, there were allegations of fraudulent misrepresentations by these transient individuals. **Officer Jonathan Youngblood** reviewed state statutes and city ordinances to determine whether there was anything on the books that controlled this type of behavior. He found there was nothing and that the City would have to adopt implementing ordinances if the practices were to be controlled. Independently, the **Sammamish Department of Community Development** also became concerned. The **City Attorney** reviewed the ordinances of other jurisdictions in the area that addressed this subject, as well as recent court decisions relating to door-to-door solicitations by religious and charitable organizations. Proposed legislation was presented to the City Council, which passed an ordinance on December 3, 2002.

Results: Sammamish now has an ordinance covering door-to-door sales people. The City is implementing procedures to enact the ordinance. The officers now have a legal tool to help them

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## *Service Efforts and Accomplishments: 2002*

answer the concerns of the citizens, while avoiding potential constitutional issues relating to religious and charitable organizations.

### Parking Violations - "For Sale" Vehicles

There are several locations within the city where cars and trucks are parked for sale for extended periods of time. **MPO Mike Yamamoto** worked the original complaint; other officers were involved as new locations were identified to the police. The specific solution to the problem differed with the location. In one case, MPO Yamamoto worked with **Sammamish Public Works Department** and determined that the solution was written and verbal warnings to the vehicle owners, followed by the installation of curbing that prevented vehicles from being parked at the location. At another location, enforcement of the city's 24-hour abandoned vehicle parking ordinance was the most effective, with officers impounding the vehicles when owners did not comply with the pink warning tags affixed to the vehicles. Without a specific ordinance addressing the parking of vehicles for the purpose of advertising them for sale, this will be a problem that can only be addressed piecemeal.

Results: Although Sammamish Police Officers will continue to tag and, if necessary, impound vehicles, responsibility for this project has been assigned to the City Attorney's Office to draft an ordinance for presentation to the City Council.

### Transients Parking and Setting Up a Camp

There is an area in the woods along the East Lake Sammamish Parkway NE where transients have been setting up camps. Officers would check the location and urge the transients to move on. As the weather turned cold, the incidents of trespassing have all but disappeared. The police continue to monitor the locations.

Results: As the calendar moved into fall and winter, the incidents have all but disappeared. This is likely due to the weather. Sammamish Police will continue to monitor the location and will reopen the project if activity resumes.

### Outstanding Criminal Warrants

Because of a reduction in staffing in the District Court System and the Sheriff's Office Criminal Warrant Unit, there exists a large backlog of unserved criminal warrants. Not only were there City of Sammamish warrants, but also a significant number of warrants from other jurisdictions on defendants who live within Sammamish. Unserved warrants do not deter future crime, and they delay justice because victims cannot have their day in court with the suspect. Indirectly, outstanding warrants also increase the city's jail costs, because people arrested on warrants must be booked into jail if they cannot be taken directly to the court, whereas if the person had taken care of the charge (e.g., scheduled a court date, paid the fine), jail time may not have been required at all. **Officer Travis De Fries** assumed the role of Police Department Warrant Officer and declared a citywide Warrant Emphasis. The courts assisted by initiating a process of regularly forwarding lists of outstanding warrants to him. He, in turn, provides the information to other Sammamish patrol officers, so they can look for the suspects in their discretionary time. A flyer was disseminated to all Block Watch Captains and Homeowners' Assn. contacts, explaining the warrant emphasis and offering his assistance in clearing the warrants in a manner more convenient for the named offender. The *Sammamish Review* newspaper also carried an article on the Warrant Emphasis.

Results: Arrests on criminal warrants in Sammamish have significantly increased, and the number of unserved City of Sammamish warrants has been reduced.

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### Illegal Dumping (Restaurant Waste)

Puddles of an unknown substance were noticed in the parking lot adjacent to City Hall. Upon investigation, it was determined that grease waste from a restaurant was being dumped in the parking lot. **Officer Jason Houck** worked with the **City's Code Enforcement Officer** to apply applicable codes to stop the practice.

**Results:** The owner of the restaurant installed grease traps to collect all of the waste grease. There has been no further occurrence of restaurant employees dumping grease onto the parking lot asphalt.

### Juvenile Gatherings Involving Alcohol, Drugs, and Littering

In the wooded area behind the Sammamish Safeway store, juveniles had set up a gathering location, complete with an old couch. Out of the public view, the juveniles are able to smoke, use alcohol or drugs, and even conceal stolen property. Runaway juveniles also use the location for temporary "housing." The unsightly condition negatively impacts the businesses along the east side of the Sammamish Highlands Shopping Center. Intoxicated or impaired students negatively impact Eastlake High School, which also borders on the wooded area. **Officer Sue Sherwood** initiated this project, contacting the shopping center landlord and the school district.

**Results:** Responsibility for follow up and completion has been transferred to **City Code Enforcement Officer Ronda Litzau**.

### Unenforceable Trespassing, Party Location

The City of Redmond owns a dock on Lake Sammamish. The dock is not open to the public, but youth have been gathering there for parties. Litter and human feces can be found in the area. The police have not been given a trespass enforcement letter from the City of Redmond, nor is the location properly signed to allow enforcement of trespassing ordinances. Frequent parties during the summer months, involving alcohol, affect the residents of neighboring properties.

**Results:** Responsibility for follow-up and completion has been transferred to **Sammamish Parks and Recreation** for liaison with the City of Redmond to have the signage posted and the trespass letter drafted and mailed to the police department.

### Graffiti at a School

Margaret Mead Elementary School in the City was experiencing a rash of graffiti on the buildings. The markings were different than those already logged in our Graffiti Book. **Detective Bill Albright** scheduled a meeting with the school staff at Eastlake High School to generate leads, but before a meeting could be held, the problem ceased.

**Results:** The problem appears to have stopped on its own. There has been no further incidence of graffiti at this school.

### "Sign Blight"

Although it was not a formal problem-solving project, special mention should be made of a concerted effort to remove the blight of illegally posted commercial advertising signs. The police department and **City Code Enforcement Officer Ronda Litzau** both appreciate the concern demonstrated by Sammamish residents over the appearance of commercial signage along our streets and roads. The police department documents the location of the signs. Then a decision is made as to the best

# City of Sammamish Police

## *Service Efforts and Accomplishments: 2002*

approach—criminal or civil. **Sammamish Public Works Department** also assists by taking down the signs that have been illegally posted high on utility poles.

Results: We have a beautiful city; we also have a Team Approach to reducing the blight of illegal commercial signage in a timely manner.

# City of Sammamish Police

## *Service Efforts and Accomplishments: 2002*

### Objective: Improve Citizens' Feeling of Security

#### Public Communication and Education Efforts

##### Newsletters and Published Articles

The police department contributes at least one article to almost every edition of Sammamish's city newsletter. We have posted several articles on police department and crime prevention topics on the city's web page ([www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us)). Several times during the year, we provided articles for the *Sammamish Review* and for the PTSA newsletters for the elementary and junior high/middle schools within the City. **Chief Baranzini** had several articles published in professional journals, such as *The Sheriff* magazine and the *Native American Law Digest*. He also had two monographs published by the International City/County Management Association. And **Detective Whitney Richtmyer** wrote an excellent article on physical fitness training for police officers, which was published in *Mylo: A Journal for Serious Strength Athletes*.

##### Crime Alert Bulletins

We have an active program of publishing and disseminating Crime Alert bulletins as specific crime trends are identified by our officers or by the Sheriff's Centralized Crime Analysis Unit. We also utilize these bulletins to pass on crime prevention tips. These bulletins are distributed by our patrol officers as they make their rounds, are available at City Hall for citizens who come in to do business, and are emailed to Block Watch Captains and Homeowners' Association contacts. During 2002, we published bulletins and flyers on the following topics: Holiday False Alarm Prevention, False Alarm Prevention Month, and the Sammamish PD Arrest Warrant Emphasis. **Deputy Alana Hall** designed a special flyer on women's safety issues to use at her presentations to women's groups.

##### Community Meetings

In addition to Neighborhood Block Watch meetings, we have been active in answering requests for speakers or participants in various types of meetings. Our annual participation in **National Night Out** occurred in August. As with 2001, it became "**National Week Out**," as some neighborhoods had their events on nights other than Tuesday. Participation increased to 8 developments and more than 326 residents. (One neighborhood participated for the **third** straight year; two others participated for the **second** straight year. Besides the police, the **City Manager, Assistant City Manager, Fire Department, and Code Enforcement Officer** made the rounds, visiting the various block and neighborhood events. The police also participate in the monthly Neighborhood Connections meetings at City Hall. Special meetings were held in the community during the months and weeks leading up to the **NEC Invitational Golf Tournament**; the police department participated to answer the security and traffic control concerns of our citizens.

##### Citizens Academies

Although Citizens Academies were cancelled by the Sheriff's Office for budgetary reasons, we partner with the Sheriff and the contract cities of northeast King County to advertise and/or host Citizens Academies. These are great opportunities for our citizens to learn about the behind-the-scenes operation of a police department. We look forward to being able to participate in a Citizens Academy for the residents of Sammamish and the unincorporated areas of East King County.

##### Police Trading Card Program

During 2002, we published the **second edition** of our popular police trading card program. Each card (25 per edition) includes a picture and biography or informative information on a police officer or other personnel or equipment of the city. This year's edition included cards on the **City Manager, City Attorney, City Council, Police Chaplains, Parks and Recreation Department, Code**

# City of Sammamish Police

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**Enforcement Officer, Animal Control Officer, Building Permits and Inspections, Police Clerks, and Police Volunteers.** One of the most popular cards is the one featuring the **Sammamish Youth Board**. These trading cards are educational, presenting not only a crime prevention or safety tip, but also in explaining the organization of city government. They also are a team-building exercise for our wonderful city staff. The cards and their messages are geared toward youth in elementary and junior high/middle school ages, but the cards have become popular to adults and high school-aged youth, as well. The cards were paid for by grants from **King County Community Organizing** and the **Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs**.

## **Goal: Provide High-quality, Cost-effective, and Accountable Services to the City of Sammamish, WA**

The goal "to provide high-quality, cost-effective, and accountable services" is a goal any service industry might strive for. It reflects a concern for the appropriate and effective use of community resources. Efforts to support this goal are made in partnership with elected officials and police administrators, taking into consideration problem areas, community concerns for quality of life and resources available.

The objectives chosen to provide direction for Sammamish's police department in support of this goal are:

- provide responsive services to citizens, and
- provide cost-effective services to citizens.

The measures on the following pages report the efforts and accomplishments of Sammamish's police department using traditional responsiveness measures (such as response times and complaints). Additionally, cost information is shown in ratios of costs by the population, by available revenue, by staffing and by volume of work.

# City of Sammamish Police

## *Service Efforts and Accomplishments: 2002*

### Objective: Provide Responsive Services to Citizens

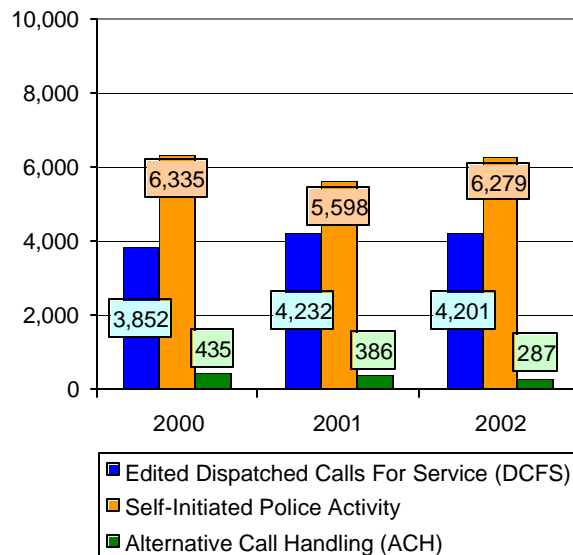
#### Response to Calls

##### Edited Dispatched Calls for Service (DCFS), Self-initiated Police Activities and Alternative Call Handling (ACH) Reports

Police engage in a variety of activities in a workday. Primarily police activity is captured in the number of "calls" responded to during a day. A "call" may be an incident called in by a citizen to the 9-1-1 center or a call may be "self initiated" by the officer, responding to a crime they've witnessed or to chronic problems in a neighborhood (see Problem Solving Projects on pages 16-19). In addition to the calls responded to by officers, the Alternative Call Handling (ACH) program allows 9-1-1 center operators to take certain police reports over the phone in order to allow police officers more time to respond to citizens who need an officer present at the location of their incident.

Below are the numbers of Edited Dispatched Calls For Service (DCFS), Self-initiated Police Activities and Alternative Call Handling (ACH) incidents reported for the past three years.

**Police Calls**





# City of Sammamish Police

## *Service Efforts and Accomplishments: 2002*

### Response Times to High Priority Calls

#### **Call Priorities and Response Times**

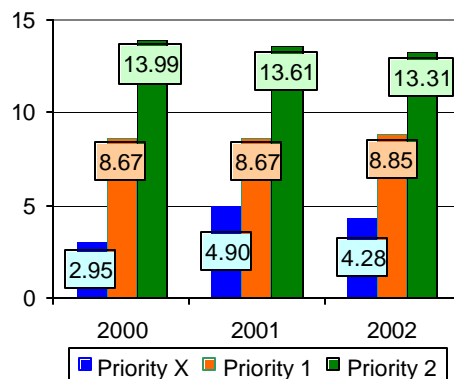
When calls for police assistance are received by the Communications (9-1-1) Center, they are entered into the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system and given a “priority” based on the criteria described below. If the call receiver is in doubt as to the appropriate priority, the call is assigned the higher of the two priority designators in question.

“**Priority X**” designates critical dispatches, those incidents that pose an obvious danger to the life of an officer or citizen. It is used for felony crimes in-progress where the possibility of confrontation between a victim and suspect exists. Examples include: shootings, stabbings, robberies or burglaries.

“**Priority 1**” designates immediate dispatches; those calls that require immediate police action. Examples include: silent alarms, injury traffic accidents, in-progress crimes or crimes so recent that the suspect may still be in the immediate area.

“**Priority 2**” designates prompt dispatches; those calls that could escalate to a more serious degree if not policed quickly. Examples include: verbal disturbances, audible alarms and blocking traffic accidents.

**Average Response Times\*  
to High Priority Calls in  
Minutes**



\* The 9-1-1 Center for the City of Sammamish Police measures response times from the time a citizen's phone call is received to the time an officer arrives at the location of the incident.

# City of Sammamish Police

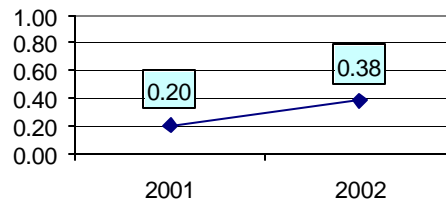
## *Service Efforts and Accomplishments: 2002*

### Complaints by Citizens Against Officers

#### Complaints by Citizens Against Officers

#### Complaints per 1,000 Police Contacts

Comparable data unavailable prior to  
2001



	2000	2001	2002
<b>Number of Complaints*</b>	2	2	4
<b>Number of Police Contacts</b> (Edited DCFS & Self- initiated Police Contacts)	10,187	10,123	10,480

\*Due to improvements in data collection techniques, year 2000 is not comparable with subsequent years.

# City of Sammamish Police

## *Service Efforts and Accomplishments: 2002*

### Objective: Provide Cost-effective Services to Citizens

#### Costs of Services

The City of Sammamish contracts with the King County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) for police services. Among other benefits, contracting for services from a larger law enforcement agency allows for cost savings through "economies of scale." Specific economies of scale provided through the contract with KCSO include:

- Existing Mutual Aid Agreements with other law enforcement agencies in Washington State,
- A large pool of officers if back-up help is necessary,
- Coverage if your officers are away,
- Expertise of specialized units to assist officers,
- More experienced officers to select from for staffing, and
- Costs shared throughout the department keeping city costs down.

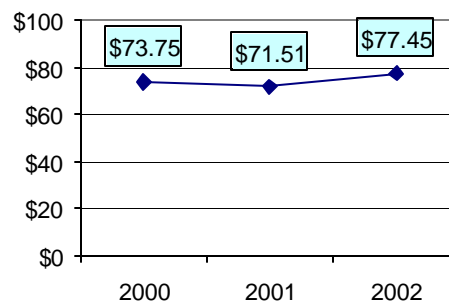
Costs for police services vary depending on a city's resources and the level and type of police services the community wants. The dollar amounts and staffing levels shown below are taken from the contracts for police services (billed financial exhibits) for the years indicated. The City of Sammamish may have had additional funds or expenditures for special projects or programs as part of the city's law enforcement budget that are **not** reflected in this report.

The following are four ways of putting the cost-to-services picture together for the City of Sammamish. (NOTE: Dollar amounts shown have **not** been adjusted for inflation.)

#### Cost per Capita

Cost Per Capita shows the contract cost for police services divided by Sammamish's population (for example: year 2002 contract cost (\$2,684,419) divided by year 2002 population (34,660) = \$77.45).

#### Cost Per Capita



# City of Sammamish Police

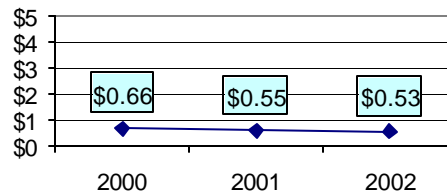
## *Service Efforts and Accomplishments: 2002*

### Cost per \$1,000 of Assessed Real Property Value

Cost Per \$1,000 of Assessed Real Property Value shows Sammamish's contract cost in relationship to the property values (a.k.a. primary revenue source) of Sammamish.

#### **Cost Per \$1,000 of Assessed Real Property Value**

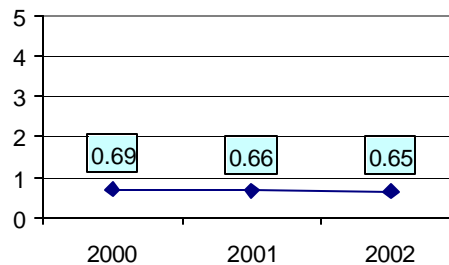
Data unavailable prior to 2000



### Commissioned Officers per 1,000 Residents

Commissioned Officers Per 1,000 Residents shows how many commissioned police officers are employed by Sammamish for every 1,000 residents. This number includes commissioned officers who work in supervisory or other non-patrol related positions as well as any special services officers who work part-time for the city, but does not include professional (i.e. non-police) support staff.

#### **Commissioned Officers Per 1,000 Residents**



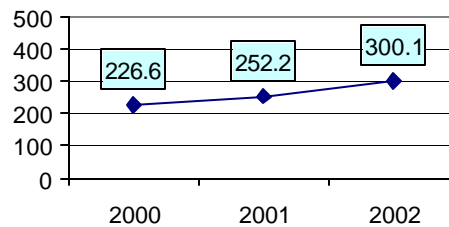
# City of Sammamish Police

## *Service Efforts and Accomplishments: 2002*

### Edited Dispatched Calls for Service (DCFS) per Patrol Officer

Edited Dispatched Calls for Service (DCFS) Per Patrol Officer gives a picture of the average number of dispatched calls one patrol officer responds to within a year. This number only uses dispatched calls Sammamish pays for and does not include the number of responses an officer initiates (such as witnessing and responding to traffic violations). Also, the numbers below are **patrol only** and exclude non-patrol commissioned officers (such as supervisors or special duty officers/detectives).

#### **Edited Dispatched Calls for Service (DCFS) Per Patrol Officer**



## Glossary

Adult Arrests: An arrest is counted every time an adult is cited for a criminal offense or is booked. More specifically:

1. It includes all adult bookings, plus
2. All adult citations that are classified as criminal non-traffic.
3. When an adult is both cited and booked, it is counted only once.

CAD: See "Computer Aided Dispatch" below.

Cases Cleared/Clearance: This refers to the solving of an offense by arrest or, in some circumstances, by exceptional means (e.g., the suspect died, is imprisoned on another charge, victim refuses to testify, etc.).

Cleared by Arrest: This is a case that is closed by identifying at least one suspect and charges against that suspect(s) are recommended to the Prosecuting Attorney. Although called "cleared by arrest" this closure does not require physical booking into a jail or juvenile detention facility. It also does not require the charging of all suspects if/when there are multiple suspects involved in a crime. This category includes criminal citations into district and municipal courts for misdemeanors, felony filings into Superior Court, and all filings into Juvenile Court.

Other clearance codes:

1. "Cleared Exceptional" refers to a case in which a crime and a suspect involved in the crime have both been confirmed but, due to circumstances outside the control of law enforcement, charges are not being recommended to the Prosecuting Attorney. (One example of this is when the suspect is already being charged for the crime by another police jurisdiction.)
2. "Cleared Unfounded" refers to a case in which it is discovered that the reported incident was either not true or was not a crime.
3. "Cleared Administrative" refers to an incident found to be non-criminal in nature, but which requires some police action to close the incident (e.g., handling of lost and found property).
4. "Cleared Inactive" refers to cases in which all investigative leads have been exhausted (or none existed) and the case cannot be closed by any other clearance classifications.

Citation: Often called a "ticket," a citation is a written document issued to a citizen who commits a crime or violates a law. The citation describes the crime and/or the law that has been violated and identifies the punishment that has been standardized by the court system (i.e., the standardized monetary amounts payable for traffic violations). While citations prescribe a penalty for a crime, they may be challenged through the court system. They usually include instructions for the cited citizen to appeal the citation.

Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD): A computerized communication system used by emergency response agencies for dispatching and tracking calls for emergency assistance.

Domestic Violence: Domestic violence is a subcategory of other crimes. Virtually any crime can be sub-classified as domestic violence. In the State of Washington, domestic violence is defined as a crime of violence against the person or property of a spouse, former spouse, persons related by blood or marriage, persons who have a child in common, former/current

roommates, persons who have or had a dating relationship, and persons related to the suspect by the parent-child (biological or legal) relationship. In some cases, the age of the victim or suspect may determine whether or not the legal definition above is met.

Dispatched Calls For Service (DCFS): Dispatched calls for service are calls received in the Communications Center and to which one or more patrol cars are dispatched. For information about "Edited Dispatched Calls For Service (DCFS)" see the Data Sources section of this report.

Felony: Felony crimes are more serious in terms of either harm or loss to persons or property than misdemeanors, and usually are punished by more restrictive methods than citations. Felonies have subclasses (A, B and C) that are based on the extent of harm to a person or the dollar value of loss or damage to property.

Identifier Codes for Priority of Dispatched Police Calls: The Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) systems used by 9-1-1 Centers use a system of codes to identify the types of calls to which police are being dispatched. Along with categorizing the type of incident the codes also assign the call a priority level based on the urgency required for the police response. The following are the priority levels used by the Communications (9-1-1) Center for the various types of police calls:

- Priority 0 (9-1-1 Dispatch): This code is used when a dispatcher sends a police unit to an incident based on the location, name and phone number information automatically generated by the 9-1-1 CAD system based on the origin of the call. This may be necessary when a caller is unable (for whatever reasons) to give the information or gives minimal information before the call is somehow terminated. Open phone lines and disconnected lines to which a call-receiver is unable to re-contact the caller are also examples of Priority 0 calls.
- Priority X (Critical Dispatch): This code is used for incidents that pose an obvious danger to the life of an officer or citizen. Examples are felony crimes in progress, "help the officer" situations, shootings, stabbings, in-progress robberies and in-progress burglaries where the possibility of a confrontation between a victim and a suspect exists.
- Priority 1 (Immediate Dispatch): This code is used for incidents requiring immediate police action. Examples are silent alarms at banks or businesses, silent residential alarms, injury accidents, major disturbances with weapons involved, in-progress burglaries of unoccupied structures, and other types of crimes in-progress (or which have just occurred) where a suspect may still be in the immediate area.
- Priority 2 (Prompt Dispatch): This code is used for events that involve situations that could escalate to a more serious degree if not policed quickly. Examples are verbal disturbances, audible residential or audible commercial alarms and blocking accidents, and incidents of shoplifters in custody who are not causing a problem.
- Priority 3 (Routine Dispatch): This code is used for low priority incidents in which time is not the critical factor in the proper handling of the call. Examples are burglaries or larcenies that are not in progress, "cold" vehicle thefts and abandoned vehicle calls.
- Priority 4 (Dispatch as available): This code is used for special circumstances or "seasonal" calls. Examples are reports of snowball throwing during winter months or firecracker complaints around July 4th.

Misdemeanor: Crimes that inflict harm or loss but to a lesser extent than a felony (e.g., assault fourth degree or simple assault). Misdemeanors usually are punished through monetary payment via a citation and/or other restrictions (such as restraining orders or no trespass orders).

Part I Crimes: This is a category of crimes established by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). It includes criminal homicide (which includes murder and non-negligent manslaughter; but excludes deaths by negligence, attempts to kill, suicides, accidental deaths, justifiable homicide, and traffic fatalities), forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

Part I Crimes Against Persons: These crimes are also referred to as "violent crimes." They consist of criminal homicide (as defined above), forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Part I Crimes Against Property: These are burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

Part II Crimes: This is a category of crimes consisting of all other crimes not included in the Part I Crimes category. Part II crimes vary due to differences in local laws, but typically include one or more of the following crimes: all other assaults (simple), forgery and counterfeiting, fraud, embezzlement, stolen property (buying, receiving and/or possessing), vandalism, weapons (carrying, possessing, etc.), prostitution and commercialized vice, sex offenses (including statutory rape, indecent exposure, etc. but excluding forcible rape, prostitution and commercialized vice), drug violations, gambling, offenses against families and children, driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, liquor violations, drunkenness, disorderly conduct, and others.



## Data Sources

The data compiled in this report was collected from the following sources and, as such, is subject to the data standards and limitations of the source agency:

- City of Sammamish Police (information regarding: traffic complaints, crime prevention activities, problem solving projects and public communication and education efforts)
- Edited Dispatched Calls For Service (DCFS) are the incidents that originate with a phone call to the 9-1-1 Center requesting a police response (either emergency or non-emergency). The totals shown in this report are limited to the DCFS calls that the city is charged for as part of their contract. Actual DCFS counts may be slightly (usually less than 5%) higher. This data is reported via the King County Sheriff's Office Communications Center Section, Research, Planning and Information Services Unit and Contracting Unit.
- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) annual statistical report *Crime in the United States: 2001*
- Washington State Office of Financial Management (demographic information)
- King County Sheriff's Office:
  - Annual Statistical Reports
  - Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system reports
  - Internal Investigations Unit statistical reports
  - Interlocal Agreements - Exhibit Bs (contract cost and staffing information)
- King County Tax Assessor's Office (real property values)
- Washington State Courts, Courts of Limited Jurisdiction annual caseload reports (traffic citation and Notice of Infraction information); available on the Internet at: [www.courts.wa.gov/caseload](http://www.courts.wa.gov/caseload)

## Improved Data

One of the functions of a Service Efforts and Accomplishments Report is to highlight data collection and reporting methods that may need modification. Since the first annual report was published in 2000, the research and publishing staff have identified several ways to improve the data presented in these reports. Many improvements were implemented since that time and therefore data may differ somewhat in subsequent reports.